**Expansion of Bank Branches in Orissa during the Eighth Five Year Plan**

2028. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for expansion of bank branches during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the number of new branches of different nationalised commercial banks proposed to be set up in Orissa during the above period; and

(c) what are the details of the branches proposed to be opened at different places in Orissa during the financial year 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) The current Branch-Licensing Policy (1985-90) co-terminus with Seventh Five Year Plan is coming to an end on 31-3-1990. The guidelines for the new Branch Licensing Policy are being finalised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

**Modernisation of Steel Plants**

2029. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the plant-wise additional investment made to bridge the technology gap by modernising the public sector steel plants during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) the plant-wise average cost of steel production during the above period;

(c) the plant-wise time schedule for completing the modernisation schemes; and

(d) by what amount and percentage the cost of steel production is likely to go up or come down during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) The estimated investment on modernisation of steel plants of Steel Authority of India Ltd. during the 7th Five Year Plan (1985-90) is as under:

| | (Rs. in crores |
|---|---|
| Durgapur Steel Plant . | 555.70 |
| Rourkela Steel Plant . . | 155.12 |
| Bokaro Steel Plant . . | 5.00 |
| Indian Iron & Steel Co. (Burnpur) . . . | 151.72 |

(b) Cost of production is classified information.

(c) The time schedule for completion of the modernisation schemes is as under:

| | |
|---|---|
| Durgapur . | By March, 1993 |
| Rourkela . | By April, 1995 |

—The time schedule for modernisation of Bokaro and IISCO (Burnpur) Steel Plants will depend on sanctions of these projects, which are presently under consideration.

(d) Only the Durgapur Steel Plant Project is likely to be completed during the VIIIth Plan period. The operating cost of production (excluding interest and depreciation) here is expected to reduce by 44 per cent (at IIIrd Quarter, 1988 prices).

**Visit of a High Level US Business delegaion to India**

2030. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level U.S. business delegation recently negotiated with the Indian Govern-